

# EQUALITY NOW

1998-1999 REPORT



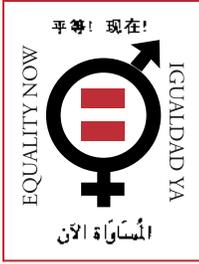
**Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home . . . .**

**Después de todo, dónde comienzan los derechos humanos universales? En los lugares pequeños, cercanos a nuestra casa . . . .**

**Et d'ailleurs, où commence le respect des droits universels? Dans des lieux familiers, proches du foyer. . . .**

**أين تبدأ حقوق الإنسان العالمية؟ إنها تبدأ في تلك الأماكن الصغيرة بالقرب من المساكن. . . .**

**ELEANOR ROOSEVELT**



**E**quality Now was founded in 1992 to work for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women around the world. Working with national human rights groups and individual activists, Equality Now documents human rights violations against women and adds an international action component to support their efforts to advance women's rights and to defend individual women who are suffering abuse. By

distributing information through its Women's Action Network to concerned groups and individuals around the world, along with recommended actions for publicizing and protesting human rights violations, Equality Now is building an international force, capable of a rapid and concerted response to crisis situations and committed to voicing a worldwide call for justice and equality for women. Equality Now's action techniques have proven effective in addressing issues that have historically been considered outside the scope of the traditional international human rights movement, such as rape, domestic violence, reproductive rights, trafficking of women, female genital mutilation, and equal access to economic opportunity and political participation.

The Women's Action Network is the core of Equality Now's work. As of year-end 1999, the Network consists of more than four thousand groups and individuals in more than one hundred countries around the world who take action in response to appeals on behalf of individual women, participate in campaigns on broader women's issues, and channel information and strategy on their own concerns back through the Network. All Women's Actions are issued in English, Spanish, French and Arabic to promote equal access to information and to facilitate grassroots participation. Equality Now has undertaken the following sixteen Women's Actions to date:

- Reproductive Rights in Poland
- Gender-Based Political Asylum in Canada: The Case of Nada
- Rape and Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Trafficking of Women to Japan: The Death of Maricris Sioson
- UNICEF Funding for Efforts to Stop Female Genital Mutilation
- Rape in South Africa: The Durban Train Station
- Domestic Violence and Judicial Bias in the United States
- The Medicalization of Female Genital Mutilation in Egypt
- Gender-Based Political Asylum in the United States: The Case of Fauziya Kasinga
- Abortion Imprisonment in Nepal: The Case of Lok Maya Adhikari/The Death of Bimla
- Consideration of Women in the Election of the United Nations Secretary-General
- Sex Tourism from the United States: Big Apple Oriental Tours
- Censorship of the Campaign Against Female Genital Mutilation in The Gambia
- Slavery in Ghana: The Trokosi Tradition
- Trinidad and Tobago: The Imminent Execution of a Battered Woman and Her Defenders
- Words and Deeds: Holding Governments Accountable in the Beijing+5 Review Process

## SOMMAIRE

A la fin de 1999, le Réseau Action Femmes comprend plus de quatre mille groupes et individus dans plus de cent pays autour du monde, qui répondent aux appels pour des femmes individuelles et qui participent aux campagnes sur des questions plus générales relatives à la femme. Egalité Maintenant a publié des Actions Femmes sur les droits de reproduction, l'asile politique pour des raisons liées au sexe féminin, le viol, la violence familiale, la traite des femmes, la mutilation génitale féminine, et les lois qui font de la femme l'objet de discriminations.

## RESUMEN

A fines de 1999 integraban la Red Acción Mujeres más de 4.000 grupos y personas de más de un centenar de países que interceden en casos coyunturales y participan en campañas sobre asuntos de la mujer en general. Igualdad Ya ha publicado varias Acciones Mujeres, las cuales a la fecha han tratado temas tales como derechos reproductivos, asilo político en base al género, violación, violencia intrafamiliar, tráfico de mujeres, mutilación genital femenina y leyes que discriminan a la mujer.

## ملخص

في نهاية عام 1999 بلغت عضوية الشبكة ما يقارب أربعة آلاف عضو من منظمات وأفراد ينتمون إلى مئة دولة في جميع أنحاء العالم. يقوم هؤلاء الأعضاء باتخاذ الإجراءات المناسبة بصدد النداءات التي تصدر نيابة عن بعض النساء كما يشتركون في الحملات الخاصة بحقوق النساء عموماً. أصدرت المساواة الآن نداءاتها حول الحقوق الإنجابية، حق اللجوء السياسي على أساس التمييز الاجتماعي (الجنس)، الاغتصاب، العنف الأسري، المتاجرة بالنساء، تشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للمرأة والقوانين التي تميز ضد النساء.

# SLAVERY IN GHANA: THE TROKOSI TRADITION

In March 1998, Equality Now issued a Women's Action calling for the criminalization of the *trokosi* tradition in Ghana, a tradition in which families give virgin girls to priests as a way of appeasing the gods for crimes committed by relatives. The word *trokosi* means in the Ewe language "slaves of the gods." Once given to a priest, a girl is his property. She works his fields and farmlands, cleans his

home and cooks his meals. After the onset of menstruation, the bondage of *trokosi* is sexual as well. The Women's Action highlighted the case of Abla Kotor, who was given at the age of 12 to a local priest in atonement for the rape that resulted in her birth, the rape of her mother by her mother's uncle. Abla Kotor was one of thousands of young girls in southeastern Ghana, enslaved by the *trokosi* tradition.

On 12 June 1998, the Ghanaian Parliament passed an amendment to the Criminal Code, adding Section 314A,

which criminalizes the *trokosi* practice and customary or ritual enslavement of any kind. The new law was signed by the President in September 1998 and on 10 October 1998, International Needs Ghana, a human rights organization working for the release and rehabilitation of individual *trokosi*, held a liberation ceremony in the Ketu district of the Volta region. Although the Awlo-Korti shrine where Abla was enslaved as a *trokosi* was among the shrines liberated, no member of her family came to claim Abla, presumably for fear of the tradition. As of year-end 1999, Abla no longer worked for the priest at the shrine and was attending school in the village, but she still lived at the shrine and remained effectively under the control of the priest. Equality Now is in contact with government officials in Ghana, as well as International Needs Ghana, in an effort to ensure that Abla Kotor is placed in the custody of someone who will take care of her and ensure that she is safe.

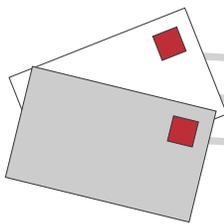
**W**hoever sends to or receives at any place any person or participates in or is concerned with any ritual or customary activity in respect of any person with the purpose of subjecting that person to any form of ritual or customary servitude or any form of forced labour related to customary ritual shall be guilty of a second degree felony and liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than three years.

**Text of law passed by the Ghanaian Parliament, 12 June 1998**



ROBERT M. GROSSMAN/INVT PICTURES

*Abla Kotor, enslaved as a trokosi at the age of 12, to atone for the rape that resulted in her birth.*



# LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

I have taken the unprecedented step of writing to your office and to you personally, to urge you to pass the legislation which has been introduced to criminalize the *trokosi* tradition, and also to take immediate action to ensure the release of all *trokosi* in Ghana and the protection of girls in the future from this tradition. Above all else, our love for the human race must be the driving force behind the abolition of this practice.

**Sarah L. Flood, Minister  
Ministry of Health, Human Services,  
Family Affairs and Women  
St. Lucia, West Indies**

We ask you to pass the legislation which has been introduced to criminalize the *trokosi* tradition—this tradition that belongs to the middle ages—and urge you to take immediate action to ensure the release of all *trokosi* in Ghana and the protection of girls in the future from this tradition.

**Suzan Fayad, Director  
El-Nadim Center for the Management and  
Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence  
Egypt**

A l'orée du 21<sup>ème</sup> siècle, il est intolérable et inhumain de laisser perpétrer une telle pratique au nom d'une tradition qui fait la honte des peuples africains. La tradition *trokosi* est plus qu'une simple violation des droits des femmes, de ces petites filles innocentes, elle est une déshumanisation et à ce titre, doit être combattue par tous.

**Mariam Lamizana  
Ministère de l'Action Sociale et de la Famille  
Burkina Faso**

Enteradas que el 12 de junio de 1998, el Parlamento de Ghana aprobó la enmienda que se añade a la Sección 314A del Código Penal, por la que se convierte en un delito la práctica de las *trokosis*, agradecemos el apoyo de ese Gobierno a dicha legislación.

**Susana Chiarotti  
Coordinadora Regional  
CLADEM**

The new law signed in September 1998 that criminalizes customary or ritual enslavement of any kind, including the practice of *trokosi*, contributes to the advancement of the human rights of girls and women in your country, and in the global community of nations.

**Mary Lou L. Alcidi  
Kanlungan Centre Foundation, Inc.,  
Center for Migrant Workers  
The Philippines**

I should like to express my sincere thanks for the support you gave this legislation to criminalize this archaic practice. I also should like to ask you to take steps to ensure that this legislation is brought to the attention of local communities and to make sure that this tradition is going to end.

**Dr. Elisabeth Hlavac  
Member of the Austrian Parliament**

Nous sommes d'autant plus surprises de la persistance de cette forme d'exploitation physique et sexuelle des petites que votre pays le Ghana semblait être une référence de démocratie et de respect des droits de la personne humaine en Afrique. Nous sommes aussi très choquées de l'existence de la tradition *trokosi* d'autant plus que le Ghana a ratifié un certain nombre d'instruments internationaux qui protègent la femme et l'enfant en particulier et le/la citoyen(ne) ghanéen(ne) en général.

**Fatoumata Siré Diakitè, La Présidente  
Association pour Le Progrès et la Défense  
des Droits des Femmes Maliennes**

## THE OFFICIAL RESPONSE

**Equality Now, 10 August 1998:** Equality Now has been concerned about the *trokosi* practice in Ghana and supported the efforts within the country to introduce legislation outlawing the practice, legislation which we were pleased to learn has been passed on 12 June 1998 by the Parliament. We understand that this legislation now awaits your signature to become effective.

**Office of the President, Ghana, 20 August 1998:** You may note the custom of *trokosi* is only found in a small part of southeastern Ghana. The most important weapon against such beliefs and practices is not law, but education and the weight of public response.

**Equality Now, 1 September 1998:** Your Parliament passed the Criminal Code (Amendment Bill) on 12 June 1998, banning the *trokosi* practice. This has been confirmed by representatives of the local NGO we have been working with. They tell us that the bill only awaits the signature of the President in order to become law. We reiterate our hope that the President will sign the bill as soon as possible, to facilitate the release of *trokosi* girls in Ghana and the end of this slavery-like practice.

**Office of the President, Ghana, 14 September 1998:** I am happy to inform you that the Criminal Code (Amendment Bill) received Presidential assent earlier last week.

## SOMMAIRE

En mars 1998, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Action Femmes pour demander la criminalisation de la tradition *trokosi* au Ghana, tradition selon laquelle les familles donnent des filles vierges aux prêtres afin d'expier des crimes commis par d'autres membres de la famille. L'Action a mis en lumière le cas d'Abla Kotor, qu'on a donnée à l'âge de 12 ans à un prêtre local pour expier le viol dont a résulté sa naissance—le viol de sa mère, par l'oncle de celle-ci. Le 12 juin 1998, le Parlement ghanéen a voté une loi, que le président a signée en septembre 1998, qui criminalise la pratique.

## RESUMEN

En Marzo de 1998 Igualdad Ya publicó una Acción Mujeres llamando a las autoridades de Ghana a erradicar la práctica del *trokosi*, en que la familia de una persona que ha cometido un delito entrega una virgen a un sacerdote como forma de expiación. En esta Acción Mujeres se relató el caso de Abla Kotor, niña de doce años entregada a un sacerdote para expiar la violación de su madre por un tío de ésta, producto de la cual nació Abla. La ley que penaliza esta práctica se aprobó en el Parlamento de Ghana el 12 de Junio de 1998 y fue promulgada por el Ejecutivo en Septiembre del mismo año.

## ملخص

في آذار عام 1998، أصدرت المساواة الآن ونشرت ملحقاً يطالب بتجريم تقليد "التروكوسي" في غانا، وهو تقليد يقضي بأن تقوم الأسر بتقديم فتيات عذارى إلى الكهان تكفيراً عن جرائم قام بها أحد الأقارب. ركز المنشور على قضية "أبلة كوتور" والتي قدمت إلى الكاهن المحلي وهي في الثانية عشرة من عمرها تكفيراً عن جريمة الاغتصاب التي ارتكبتها عم والدتها وأدت إلى إنجاب أبلة كوتور. وفي 12 حزيران 1998 قام البرلمان الغاني بالموافقة على قانون قام الرئيس بالتوقيع عليه في أيلول 1998 وهو قانون يجرم هذه الممارسة.

# THE IMMINENT EXECUTION OF A BATTERED WOMAN AND HER DEFENDERS

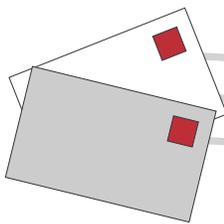


*Indravani Pamela Ramjattan, sentenced to death along with Denny Baptiste and Haniff Hilaire, who responded to her call for help against the violent abuse and threats to her life by her husband.*

In October 1998, Equality Now issued a Women's Action calling for commutation of the death sentences that had been imposed on Pamela Ramjattan, Denny Baptiste and Haniff Hilaire. When she was 17 years old, Indravani Pamela Ramjattan, a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, had been sent against her will by her parents to live with Alexander Jordan, an extremely violent man who continually beat her, raped her, and threatened to shoot her. Every time Pamela tried to run away, Alexander Jordan found her and forced her to return. The last time she escaped, after dragging her back home, Alexander Jordan beat her with a piece of wood until she was unconscious, lined their children up against the wall and asked them, one by one, whether he should kill their mother. They begged him not to. One week after this incident, forcibly confined to the house, Pamela sent a message to Denny Baptiste, a childhood friend who was trying to help her escape and with whom she had begun a relationship, and his friend Haniff Hilaire, asking them to come and rescue her. They did, and Haniff Hilaire killed Alexander Jordan in the house on 12 February 1991.

Pamela was 28 years old at the time of her arrest and pregnant. Her baby died soon after a premature delivery. On 29 May 1995, all three defendants were convicted of murder and sentenced to death without any legal consideration being given by the judicial system in Trinidad and Tobago to the severe and continual violence inflicted by Alexander Jordan on Pamela Ramjattan, which eventually led to his killing. In Trinidad and Tobago, the death penalty is mandatory for the crime of murder, although in a number of other cases in the country, men who battered women to death were sentenced to prison terms on a reduced charge of manslaughter.

In November 1997, the Privy Council in London, the highest court of appeal for cases from Trinidad and Tobago, refused leave to appeal in the case of Pamela Ramjattan, even though one of its judges described her abuse as "harrowing" and recognized that Alexander Jordan had "beaten her up mercilessly" and subjected her to a "sustained reign of terror." In February 1999, the Privy Council considered a new application from Pamela Ramjattan's lawyers with evidence that she had suffered from Battered Woman's Syndrome and sent the case back to the Trinidad and Tobago Court of Appeal with a recommendation to consider this new evidence. On 7 October 1999 the Court of Appeal overturned Pamela Ramjattan's murder conviction and imposed a reduced conviction of manslaughter, sentencing her to an additional five years in prison. As of year-end 1999, Denny Baptiste and Haniff Hilaire remain on death row. Appeals on their behalf are pending in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.



# LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN



If these three defendants are hanged, the message from the state will be that while husbands who kill their wives can expect mercy, wives who take action to save themselves from being killed by their husbands, and those who intervene to help them, will be hanged. This contravenes the fundamental human right to equal protection of the law, as well as the right to be free from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

**Jean Kamau, Executive Director  
Federation of Women Lawyers-Kenya**

Studies have shown that victims of domestic violence live within a violent cycle of abuse from which they are unable to escape both physically and mentally. Increasingly, courts around the world have accepted evidence of "battered woman's syndrome" in mitigation of charges of murder. In so doing they have recognized the gender bias which is entrenched within criminal justice systems, particularly in regard to the defences of provocation and self-defence, which are constructed around male norms of behaviour. . . . I wish to communicate my concern in regards to the above case and to express the hope that Your Excellency's Government will investigate these allegations . . . .

**Rhadika Coomaraswamy  
UN Special Rapporteur  
on Violence Against Women**

I am writing to request your intervention in the case of Denny Baptiste, Haniff Hilaire and Indravani Pamela Ramjattan, who face imminent execution. I understand that Pamela Ramjattan suffered many years of physical and psychological abuse at the hands of her deceased husband but that the full circumstances and effects of the violence may not have been properly placed before the judicial authorities.

**Navanethem Pillay, Trial Judge  
UN International Criminal Tribunal  
for Rwanda**

[I am] appealing to Trinidad and Tobago not to execute Indravani Pamela Ramjattan, a woman sentenced to death in May 1995 for the 1991 killing of her abusive common-law husband, Alexander Jordan. In an urgent appeal to the Government of the Caribbean country yesterday, [I] express[ed] concern at the fact that abuse and extreme violence suffered by Indravani Pamela Ramjattan—including beatings, threats to shoot her, and repeated rapes—were not considered by the investigating authorities or the courts to constitute mitigating circumstances.

**Asma Jahangir  
UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial,  
Summary, or Arbitrary Executions**

Pedimos, en nuestra condición de organización que lucha por los derechos de la mujer, tomen en consideración los antecedentes al caso, y puedan considerar una nueva decisión, conscientes de que Pamela Ramjattan fue una mujer maltratada y vejada por su esposo. En nombre del respeto hacia los derechos humanos fundamentales, exigimos que se lleve a cabo una investigación a fin de estudiar, nuevamente, los hechos que llevaron a que Pamela pusiera fin a una vida de violencia y maltratos constantes.

**Moni Pizani, Director General  
Centro de Investigación Social,  
Formación y Estudios de la Mujer  
Venezuela**

Nous sollicitons de votre haute bienveillance la clémence pour les trois condamnés à mort en vous priant de bien vouloir tenir compte de circonstances atténuantes dans cette douloureuse affaire. Votre indulgence constituera une leçon exemplaire pour les hommes comme pour les femmes dans la lutte de l'humanité entière contre la violence.

**Koffi Attignon  
Association Africaine d'Education  
Pour le Développement  
Togo**

As a women's human rights organisation, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre urges the government of Trinidad and Tobago to reconsider, in the interests of fundamental human rights and justice, the imminent executions of Pamela Ramjattan, Denny Baptiste and Haniff Hilaire.

**Shamima Ali, Coordinator  
Fiji Women's Crisis Centre**

We make this appeal to you in the matter of Indravani Pamela Ramjattan, Denny Baptiste and Haniff Hilaire. Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares, "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discriminations." When four men were shown leniency in cases of murder, why should this poor woman not have the same leniency? Why should she be discriminated [against]? Will it not violate Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

**M. Ravindran, Senior Associate  
The Madras Bar Association  
India**

## SOMMAIRE

En octobre 1998, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Action Femmes pour demander la commutation des condamnations à mort de Pamela Ramjattan, Denny Baptiste, et Haniff Hilaire. Ayant longtemps subi les mauvais traitements sévères de son mari Alexander Jordan, et après des essais infructueux de s'échapper, Pamela Ramjattan a demandé à Denny Baptiste et à son ami à lui Haniff Hilaire de venir la délivrer. Haniff Hilaire a tué Alexander Jordan dans la maison le 12 février 1991. Tous les trois accusés ont été condamnés à mort, sans qu'aucune considération juridique des circonstances atténuantes ait eu lieu. En octobre 1999, la sentence de Ramjattan a été réduite à cinq ans de plus de prison. Denny Baptiste et Haniff Hilaire sont toujours au quartier des condamnés à mort.

## RESUMEN

En Octubre de 1998 Igualdad Ya publicó una Acción Mujeres llamando a conmutar las penas de muerte que pesaban en contra de Denny Baptiste, Haniff Hilaire y Pamela Ramjattan, ésta última maltratada durante años por su marido Alexander Jordan. El 12 de Febrero de 1991, tras múltiples intentos por escapar de su marido, Pamela pidió ayuda a Denny Baptiste y su amigo Haniff Hilaire. Llegaron a la casa y Haniff Hilaire dio muerte a Jordan. Los tres fueron condenados a muerte, sin que el sistema judicial tomara en cuenta las atenuantes existentes. Aunque en Octubre de 1999 se rebajó la sentencia de Pamela Ramjattan a otros cinco años de cárcel además de los cumplidos, Denny Baptiste y Haniff Hilaire siguen a la espera de que se cumpla su sentencia de muerte.

## ملخص

في تشرين أول عام 1998 أصدرت المساواة الآن ونشرت ملحقاً يطالب بتخفيض عقوبة الإعدام ضد بيمبلا رامجاتان، ديني باتيست و "حانيف هيلار". بعد أن احتملت بامبلا العيش لمدة طويلة في كنف زوج أعتاد الإساءة لها وبعد محاولات فاشلة للهروب، طلبت بيمبلا رامجاتان "المساعدة من ديني باتيست" وصديقة "حانيف هيلار". قام حانيف هيلار بقتل الزوج اليكسندر جوردان في منزله يوم 12 شباط 1991. حكم على المتهمين الثلاثة بعقوبة الإعدام دون النظر قانونياً في الظروف المخففة. في تشرين الأول عام 1999 خفضت عقوبة بيمبلا إلى السجن لمدة خمسة سنوات أخرى. أما ديني باتيست و حانيف هيلار بقياً في انتظار تنفيذ حكم الإعدام.

# WORDS AND DEEDS: HOLDING GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE

In July 1999, Equality Now launched its first thematic Women's Action campaign, highlighting discriminatory laws around the world and calling on governments to revoke these laws as a show of commitment to the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted in September 1995 at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. One of the strategic objectives set forth in the Platform for Action was to "ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice" and more specifically in Paragraph 232 (d) to "revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex." Equality Now's Women's Action was based on a campaign report documenting a representative sampling of laws in force in 45 countries around the world that explicitly discriminate against women with regard to personal status, economic status, marital status and violence against women.

Discriminatory laws represent a small component of the discrimination women face on a daily basis in virtually every country in the world. Discrimination in the enforcement of law, denial of equal opportunity in education and employment, exclusion of women from political representation, denial of sexual and reproductive rights, and the use of social forces and physical violence to intimidate and subordinate women all constitute fundamental violations of the human right to equality. But laws that explicitly discriminate against women symbolize at the most

*Kuwait: On 23 November 1999, by a two-thirds majority the National Assembly rejected the Decree issued by the Emir that would have granted women the right to vote and to run for political office. Following the vote, a bill identical to the decree was submitted for consideration, but it was narrowly defeated by a vote of 32-30 on 30 November 1999. Meanwhile, women in Kuwait (photo, right) who have tried to register to vote and been refused have initiated a court petition for review.*





Yasmeen Hassan  
Editor of Words and Deeds

formal level the open disrespect of governments for this fundamental right and for the specific commitment made five years ago in Beijing to revoke these laws. Equality Now called on governments to honor this commitment by changing these laws prior to the Special Session of the General Assembly in June 2000 to review implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Equality Now presented its Beijing + 5 campaign report to the Heads of State and the United Nations Permanent Representatives of all the countries featured in the report, and met with representatives from a number of UN missions including Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Israel, Jordan and Kenya. Equality

Now also presented the campaign report to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the Human Rights Committee, to the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee, to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. On 11 October 1999, Equality Now organized a briefing at the United Nations, co-sponsored by the Group on Equal Rights for Women in the United Nations. Among those in attendance were representatives from the following governments: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Guinea, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In November 1999, Equality Now issued a Women's Action Update, reporting on developments regarding the laws highlighted in its campaign report, including the amendment of the Penal Code in Peru, which removed the last exemption from penalty in the law for men who marry girls between the age of 14 and 18 against whom they have committed sexual offenses. In Costa Rica, a Law Against Sexual Exploitation of Minors was passed in August 1999, effectively rendering obsolete the exemption from penalty for perpetrators of indecent assault and statutory rape if they offer to marry their victims. In Venezuela, a new Constitution was adopted in December 1999, effectively revoking the law that had previously prohibited Venezuelan women from transferring citizenship to their foreign-born husbands.

**"The Society for Advancement of Women (SAW) and the women NGOs in Malawi consider that the minimum level of political commitment to the Beijing process would require the Malawi Government, like other governments participating in the Beijing + 5 review process, to have eliminated laws, policies and practices that explicitly discriminate on the basis of sex. The fact that these laws and practices are still in place is unacceptable and suggests that despite commitments made in Beijing, the political will to implement them is woefully lacking."**

**Catherine Munthali, Executive Director, Society for the Advancement of Women  
From a letter to the government of Malawi**

## SOMMAIRE

En juillet 1999, Egalité Maintenant a lancé sa première campagne Action Femmes thématique, pour mettre en lumière des lois discriminatoires autour du monde, et pour demander aux gouvernements d'annuler ces lois comme démonstration d'engagement à la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'Action de Beijing. Dans son rapport, "Des Mots et des Faits: Tenir les gouvernements responsables," Egalité Maintenant a énuméré des lois qui limitent les droits de la femme relatifs au mariage et au divorce (y compris les lois d'obéissance de la conjointe); des lois qui limitent les droits de la femme de transmettre la nationalité, de témoigner, de voyager, de voter, d'être propriétaire foncière, d'hériter de biens immobiliers, et de travailler; de même que des lois qui exemptent les hommes de la peine pour la violence contre les femmes.

## RESUMEN

En Julio de 1999 Igualdad Ya dedicó su primera Acción Mujeres de tipo temático a los cuerpos legales de distintos países que discriminan a la mujer y formuló a los gobiernos un llamado a derogarlos en señal de compromiso con la Plataforma de Acción de Beijing. Este informe, titulado "Palabras y Acciones: Haciendo a los Gobiernos Responsables en el Proceso de Evaluación de Beijing+5," hace un recuento de leyes que restringen los derechos de la mujer en el matrimonio y el divorcio (p. ej., disposiciones sobre la "obediencia debida" de la esposa) o que le impiden transferir su ciudadanía, prestar testimonio, viajar, ejercer el derecho a voto, adquirir o heredar propiedades o incluso trabajar, así como leyes que exculpan a los hombres que ejercen violencia contra las mujeres.

## ملخص

في حزيران عام 1999، قامت المساواة الآن بأول حملة ذات هدف موضوعي عام والتي ركزت على القوانين التي تميز ضد المرأة في جميع أنحاء العالم. وطالبت الحكومات بإلغاء هذه القوانين لكي تثبت التزامها بإعمال وتنفيذ منهاج عمل بيكين. وفي تقرير المساواة الآن "أقوال وأفعال: مساءلة الحكومات خلال جلسات مراجعة مؤتمر بيكين بعد خمس سنوات" تضمن التقرير القوانين التي تعد من حرية المرأة في الزواج والطلاق (ومن ضمنها قانون الطاعة الزوجية)، والقوانين المقيدة لحقوق المرأة في نقل الجنسية وحقها في الشهادة القانونية و السفر و التصويت و امتلاك وتوريث الأملاك و في العمل أيضاً القوانين التي تعفي الرجال من العقوبة في حال مارسوا العنف ضد النساء.

Equality Now also highlighted in its campaign the activities of national organizations campaigning for reform of the laws in their countries. Such activities included a rally organized by the Israel Women's Network in February 1999 demanding that rabbinical authorities allow marriage annulments and a right to divorce in cases where the husband is abusive or has disappeared, and a petition that gathered more than 15,000 signatures in Jordan calling for the repeal of Article 340 of the Penal Code, which exempts from punishment those who commit so-called "honor killings." Following are excerpts of some of the laws and judicial decisions highlighted in the Beijing+5 report:

**Laws Restricting Women's Rights in Marriage and Divorce and Laws Requiring Wife Obedience:** Algeria, Colombia, Israel, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Poland, Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey, Yemen

- **Israel:** . . . it appears in the decrees of the rabbis that even to obligate him to divorce, without force, it is not allowed and this is from the language of the Shulchran Aruch, which says "if he wants," that the matter depends only on what he wants . . . Plonit v. Ploni, The High Rabbinic Court, 1995. . . . [T]here is no basis for us to intervene. Plonit v. Ploni, The Supreme Court of Israel, 1997.
- **Yemen:** A husband has a right to his wife's obedience in matters affecting the family's interests, particularly with regard to the following: (i) She must move with him to the conjugal home . . . (ii) She must permit him to have licit intercourse with her . . . (iii) She must obey his orders and perform her work in the conjugal home . . . (iv) She must not leave the conjugal home without his permission . . ." The Personal Status Act No. 20, 1992. Article 40.

The Beijing+5 Women's Action was published in its entirety for the November 1999 issue of *El Boletín*, a publication on women's rights in the Mediterranean region produced by the Council on Social Services in Madrid, Spain, in collaboration with The Mediterranean Women's Programme of UNESCO.



**Laws Restricting the Personal Status of Women Including Suffrage, the Right to Transfer Citizenship, the Right to Give Evidence, and the Right to Travel:** Bangladesh, Kenya, Kuwait, Monaco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, United States, Venezuela

- **United States:** The law at issue might have made custody or support the relevant criterion. Instead, it treats mothers one way, fathers another, shaping government policy to fit and reinforce the stereotype or historic pattern. . . . One can demur to the Government's observation that more United States citizen mothers of children born abroad out of wedlock actually raise their children than do United States citizen fathers of such children. As Justice Breyer has elucidated, this observation does not justify distinctions between male and female United States citizens who take responsibility, or avoid responsibility, for raising their children. (Miller v. Albright, April 22, 1998, The United States Supreme Court, 118 S. Ct. 1428, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's dissenting opinion)
- **Pakistan:** Section 8: Proof of zina-bil-jabr (rape) liable to hadd [maximum punishment] shall be in one of the following forms, namely:

(a) the accused makes before a court of competent jurisdiction a confession of the

commission of the offence; or (b) at least four Muslim adult male witnesses . . . give evidence as eye-witnesses of the act of penetration necessary to the offence. The Offences of Zina (Enforcement of Hudood) Ordinance, 1979.

**Laws Restricting Women’s Right to Property in Marriage and to Inheritance and Laws Restricting Women’s Employment Rights:**

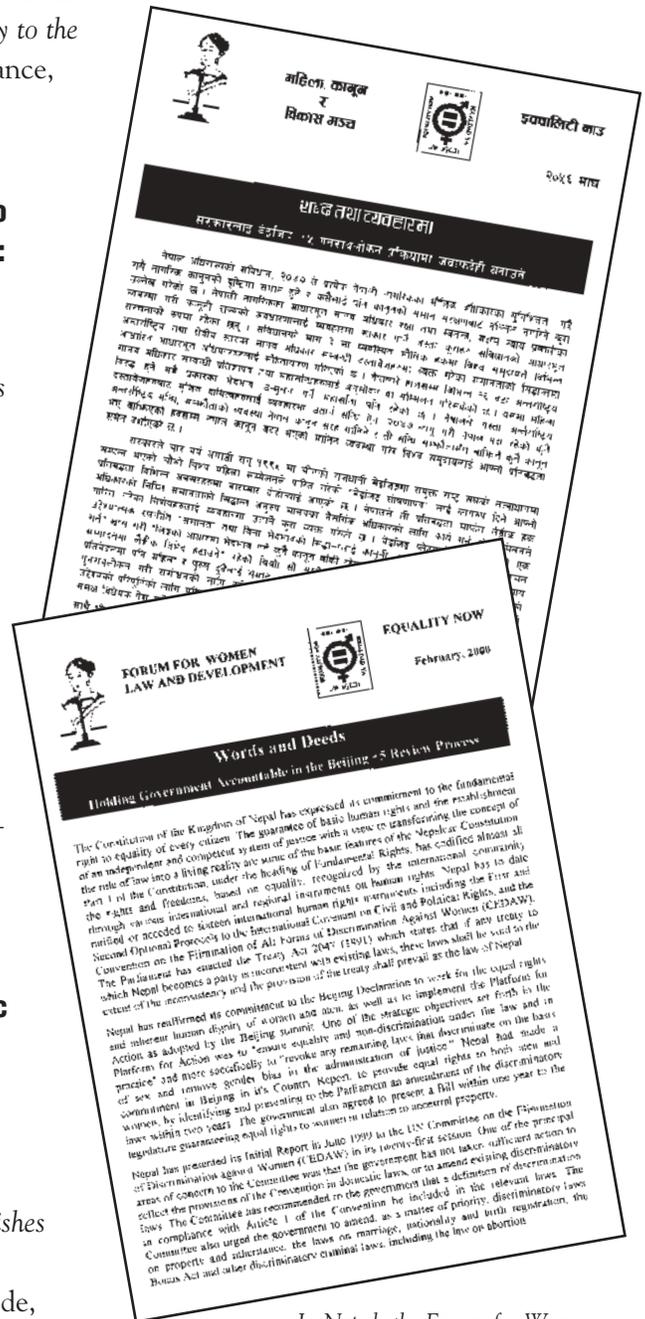
Australia, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, China, France, Latvia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Nepal, Switzerland

- **Nepal:** For purposes of inheritance, daughters shall have no title as long as the husband, wife, son or grandson (on the male side) of the deceased is extant . . . Muluki Ain, No. 2 of the Chapter on Succession.
- **Bolivia:** Women and children under the age of 18 shall only work during the day, except in the fields of nursing, domestic service and others which shall be determined. The General Labor Law, Chapter VI. The Work of Women and Minors. Article 6.
- **Latvia:** It shall be prohibited to involve pregnant women and women with children under three years of age in night-time and overtime work, in work on holidays and festive days, as well as to send them on business trips. The Labour Code, Chapter Eleven—Women at Work. Section 170.

**Laws Allowing Rapists Exemption from Punishment Through Marriage, Laws Condoning Marital Rape and Domestic Violence, “Honor Killings” and State-Sanctioned Violence:**

Costa Rica, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Syria, Uruguay, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Republic of Serbia)

- **Uruguay:** Marriage between the offender and the offended extinguishes the crime or the punishment where appropriate, in the case of rape, violent indecent assault, statutory rape or abduction. The Penal Code, Article 116.
- **Nigeria:** Correction of Child, Pupil, Servant or Wife. Nothing is an offence which does not amount to the infliction of grievous hurt upon any persons which is done: (a) by a parent or guardian for the purpose of correcting his child. . . . (b) by a schoolmaster for the purpose of correcting a child . . . entrusted to his charge (c) by a master for the purpose of correcting his servant . . . (d) by a husband for the purpose of correcting his wife . . . The Penal Code of Northern Nigeria. Section 55.
- **Morocco:** Murder, injury and beating are excusable if they are committed by a husband on his wife as well as the accomplice at the moment in which he surprises them in the act of adultery. The Penal Code Article 418.



In Nepal, the Forum for Women, Law and Development compiled all of the Nepali laws that explicitly discriminate against women and organized a parallel campaign at the national level.

# MATERNAL MORTALITY AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF ABORTION

## SOMMAIRE

En mai 1998, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Mise à Jour de son Action Femmes sur la criminalisation de l'avortement au Népal, qui a mis en lumière la mort de Bimla, une Népalaise de vingt ans qui est morte après avoir saigné pendant trois jours par suite d'un avortement illégal et périlleux. Au moment de sa mort, elle avait deux filles, âgées d'un an et de trois ans. Au Népal, tout acte d'avortement est passible de la prison, même dans les cas où la santé ou la vie de la mère est menacée, ou dans ceux où la grossesse résulte du viol ou de l'inceste. Des efforts législatifs pour amender la législation sur l'avortement continuent depuis 1994, mais à la fin de 1999, le projet de loi était toujours en instance.

## RESUMEN

En Mayo de 1998 Igualdad Ya publicó una actualización de su Acción Mujeres sobre el delito de aborto en Nepal. Se relató el caso de Bimla, nepalesa de veinte años de edad que murió desangrada tres días después de un aborto clandestino y que dejó al morir dos hijas, de uno y tres años de edad. El aborto en Nepal está sancionado con pena de cárcel, incluso aunque peligre la vida de la madre o el embarazo sea producto de violación o incesto. Se han hecho esfuerzos desde 1994 por reformar la normativa al respecto, pero al cierre de 1999 estas reformas seguían todavía pendientes.

## ملخص

في أيار عام 1998، أصدرت المساواة الآن نشرة محدثة لنشرة نيبال التي ركزت على قانون تجريم الإجهاض و قصة موت بامبلا، وهي امرأة نيبالية في العشرين من عمرها توفيت إثر نزيف دام ثلاثة أيام نتيجة لإجهاض غير صحي أو قانوني. كان لدى بامبلا عند وفاتها بنتان الأولى فسي الثالثة من عمرها والثانية تبلغ سنة واحدة من العمر. وفي نيبال يعاقب على الإجهاض بالسجن، حتى لو كانت حياة أو صحة الأم مهددة أو أن الحمل ناتج عن الاغتصاب أو سفاح القربى. ومع أن هناك جهود تشريعية لتغيير أو تعديل هذا القانون منذ عام 1994 إلا أنه حتى نهاية عام 1999، ما زال قرار التعديل قيد الانتظار.

In May 1998, Equality Now issued an Update to its Women's Action on the criminalization of abortion in Nepal, highlighting the death of Bimla, a twenty-year-old Nepali woman who died after bleeding for three days as a result of an unsafe "back street" abortion. Bimla had two daughters, aged one and three years old at the time of her death. After becoming pregnant she had been harassed by her in-laws, who feared that she would have another daughter when they wanted a grandson.



*Bimla and her family shortly before her death from an unsafe "back street" abortion.*

It is estimated that twelve women die every day in Nepal as a result of pregnancy and that half of these deaths, six every day, result from abortion-related complications. In Nepal any act of abortion is punishable by imprisonment, even in cases where the health or life of the mother is threatened, or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. Every year thousands of women suffer extremely dangerous "back street" abortions, risking not only imprisonment but sterility, chronic disability and death as a result of the unsupervised and unhygienic conditions in which abortion takes place. Methods used include the oral ingestion of chemical dyes and herbal medicines, and the insertion of foreign substances into the cervix such as mercury, sharp pieces of glass, or sticks pasted with herbal mixtures or cow-dung. Abortion-related complications are largely responsible for Nepal's high maternal mortality rate, the highest of all South Asian countries.

Legislative efforts to amend the law on abortion have been ongoing since 1994. On 31 July 1997, a bill was introduced addressing a number of women's rights issues including property inheritance, child marriage, polygamy, rape and the proposed amendment to the abortion law. On 11 May 1998 Equality Now convened a delegation of reproductive rights activists to discuss the proposed amendment with Nepali embassy officials in Washington, DC. The delegation included Kate Michelman, President of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), Eleanor Smeal, President of The Feminist Majority, and Frances Kissling, President of Catholics for a Free Choice. The bill was still pending as of year-end 1999.

# FORCED REMOVAL, RAPE, GENOCIDE

In April 1999, Equality Now issued a fourth Women's Action Update on its campaign against the genocidal campaign of "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavia, calling for the criminal indictment of Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The Update highlighted reports of rape, killings, forced removals and burning of villages in Kosovo, displacing hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians living in Kosovo.

Since 1993 Equality Now has been calling for the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, and his prosecution for war crimes, including systematic rape. Despite the ICTY indictment in 1995 of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the commander of the Bosnian Serb army, on charges of crimes against humanity and genocide, the two men remain at large. The Update called again for the arrest and trial of Karadzic and Mladic, as well as the indictment of Slobodan Milosevic, noting that the failure of

NATO and other authorities to arrest Karadzic and Mladic served as a signal to Milosevic that impunity for atrocities will be allowed for those at the highest level of responsibility.

His response: a new genocidal campaign in Kosovo—more killing, more "ethnic cleansing" and more rape.

On 27 May 1999, Slobodan Milosevic was indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for war crimes and crimes against humanity. As of year-end 1999, he remained at large. Equality Now continues to call for the arrest of Karadzic, Mladic and Milosevic. Although supposedly "in hiding" and subject to arrest by NATO forces, both Karadzic and Mladic have been publicly sighted numerous times, Karadzic in the regions bordering Montenegro and Mladic in and around Belgrade.

## SOMMAIRE

En avril 1999, Egalité Maintenant a publié une quatrième Mise à Jour sur sa campagne contre la "purification ethnique" génocide en l'ancienne Yougoslavie, pour demander l'inculpation judiciaire de Slobodan Milosevic, président de la République fédérale de la Yougoslavie (l'ICTY). Depuis 1993, Egalité Maintenant demande l'arrestation de Radovan Karadzic, le chef des Serbes bosniaques, et l'engagement de poursuites judiciaires contre lui pour des crimes de guerre, y compris le viol systématique. En 1995, Karadzic a été inculpé, et le 27 mai 1999, Milosevic a été inculpé par l'ICTY. A la fin de 1999, les deux hommes étaient toujours en liberté.

## RESUMEN

En Abril de 1999 Igualdad Ya publicó la cuarta actualización de su campaña en contra de la "depuración étnica" genocida que tuvo lugar en la ex-Yugoslavia y llamó a someter a proceso al entonces Presidente yugoslavo Slobodan Milosevic. Asimismo, Igualdad Ya ha exigido desde 1993 la detención del líder serbobosnio Radovan Karadzic y su procesamiento por crímenes de guerra, en especial por el delito de violaciones sistemáticas. En 1995 el Tribunal Penal Internacional para la ex-Yugoslavia presentó cargos contra Karadzic y el 27 de Mayo de 1999 contra Milosevic. Al cierre de 1999 ambos seguían prófugos.

## ملخص

في نيسان عام 1999 أصدرت المساواة الآن ملحقاً رابعاً في إطار حملتها المتمثلة "بالإبادة العرقية" فسيي يوغوسلافيا السابقة ونادت بالقبض على ومحاكمة سولوبدان ميلوسوفيتش رئيس الجمهورية اليوغسلافية السابقة. ومنذ عام 1993 والمساواة الآن تنادي بالقبض على رادوفان كارانديك قائد صرب البوسنة ومحاكمته عن جرائم الحرب ومن ضمنها جرائم الاعتصاب المنظم. وبالرغم من أن المحكمة قسد وجهت اتهاماً رسمياً إلى كل من كارانديك في عام 1995 وميلوسوفيتش في عام 1999، لم يتم إجراء القبض عليهما حتى الآن.



# GENDER-BASED POLITICAL ASYLUM



*Adelaide Abankwah at Wackenhut Detention Facility with visitor Fauziya Kassindja (left). Speaking after her release at Equality Now's Human Rights Day reception, December 1999 (right).*

**A**delaide Abankwah is a young woman who fled her village in Ghana and came to the United States in March 1997, seeking refuge. When her mother died, Adelaide was next in line to succeed her as Queen Mother of her village. Facing initiation rituals intended to test her virginity, Adelaide was afraid that she would be subjected to female genital mutilation or even killed in punishment when it was discovered that she had engaged in sexual relations prior to marriage. She ran to Accra, the capital of Ghana, but word went back to the village that she was there and villagers came looking for her. Knowing she would never be safe in the country, Adelaide escaped and came to the United States, thinking that she would find protection from harm and freedom to live her life in peace. Instead, she was held in detention for more than two years and three months, where she was treated like a criminal convict.

**I** am still here in your jail like animal in cage. I never knew I would be prisoner. I thought I would be free in America. I want to be free but now it feels like death will be first. I feel the spirit of death beside me all the time.

**Adelaide Abankwah**

Adelaide Abankwah applied for political asylum, and the immigration judge who heard her case found her story credible and her fear not only real but “intense.” He found that wherever she might live in Ghana, her whereabouts would be made known to her home village and that living elsewhere in Ghana would not solve her problem. But he denied her asylum, characterizing her problem as “an individual predicament” and said “the applicant fears retribution over what must be classified as personal matters.” The Board of Immigration Appeals disregarded the factual findings of the

immigration judge and held, “we do not find that she has established that the failure to remain a virgin would result in punishment amounting to persecution.”

Adelaide Abankwah's case was appealed to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Meanwhile, she remained in detention at Wackenhut Detention Facility, suffering from severe depression and several medical conditions for which she was unable to get adequate treatment. Equality Now, working with photo editor Nancy Weisman and other staff members of *Marie Claire*, undertook an intensive campaign calling on the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to release Adelaide and to grant her political asylum. Equality Now organized regular visits to Adelaide in detention, in an effort to keep her spirits up and to mobilize support on her behalf. Fauziya Kassindja, Gloria Steinem, and Rose Styron were among those who visited, and on 18 April 1999 Equality Now organized a visit to Wackenhut by Representative Carolyn Maloney and Senator Charles Schumer, who met with Adelaide and subsequently supported the campaign for her release and political asylum.

On 12 July 1999, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals issued its decision, which overturned the decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals, ruling that it had



Senator Chuck Schumer, Representative Carolyn Maloney and women's rights activist Gloria Steinem, at a press conference on behalf of Adelaide Abankwah, 25 April 1999.



Jessica Neuwirth, President of Equality Now, delivers a press statement as Representative Carolyn Maloney looks on, 18 July 1999: “The guidelines issued by the INS in 1995 to ensure the inclusion of gender-based forms of persecution have been widely disregarded. Adelaide and others like her come to America believing they will find justice and safety. They pay a very high price for that belief, imprisoned and treated like criminals.”

been “too exacting both in the quantity and the quality of evidence that is required” and finding that Adelaide’s claim for asylum had been “unreasonably denied.” The Court's decision noted that “a genuine refugee does not flee her native country armed with affidavits, expert witnesses and extensive documentation” and found that Adelaide Abankwah had a well-founded fear of persecution under the law. On 19 July 1999, after twenty-seven months, Adelaide was finally released from detention, and on 13 August 1999 she was granted political asylum.

## SOMMAIRE

Adelaide Abankwah est venue aux Etats-Unis en mars 1997, pour chercher refuge. Elle s'est enfuie de son village au Ghana de peur d'être forcée à subir la mutilation génitale ou d'être tuée, à cause d'avoir perdu sa virginité avant le mariage. Quand elle est arrivée aux Etats-Unis, elle a été arrêtée, et maintenue en détention pendant plus de deux ans pendant que sa demande d'asile politique était en instance. Le juge de l'immigration qui était le premier à considérer son cas, a trouvé son histoire crédible mais lui a refusé l'asile, en qualifiant sa situation de “situation difficile individuelle.” Egalité Maintenant a fait campagne pour la libération d'Adelaide Abankwah, et pour la reconnaissance de sa demande d'asile politique. La Cour d'appel lui ayant donné gain de cause le 19 juillet 1999, Adelaide a été libérée de la détention et, le 13 août 1999, sa demande d'asile politique a été accordée.

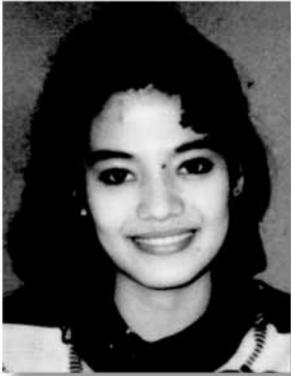
## RESUMEN

En Marzo de 1997 Adelaide Abankwah llegó a Estados Unidos en busca de refugio, habiendo abandonado su pueblo en Ghana por temor a sufrir una mutilación genital o a ser muerta por no haber llegado virgen al matrimonio. Adelaide fue arrestada al llegar y privada de libertad durante más de dos años mientras se tramitaba su solicitud de asilo. El juez de inmigración consideró su relato como “verosímil” pero le negó el asilo, calificando su situación como “un drama personal”. Igualdad Ya respondió con una campaña exigiendo su excarcelación y la otorgación de asilo. El 19 de Julio de 1999 una Corte de Apelaciones ordenó su excarcelación y el 13 de Agosto siguiente se le concedió asilo político.

## ملخص

هربت “أداليد أبانكوا” من قريتها فسي غانا خوفاً من تعريضها بشكل إجباري لتشويه أعضائها التناسلية أو القتل لأنها فقدت عذريتها قبل الزواج. وعندما وصلت إلى الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية في آذار 1997 تطلب اللجوء، ألقى القبض على أداليد حال وصولها واحتجزت لمدة تزيد على السنتين فسي حين بقي تطلب اللجوء السياسي السذي قدمته قيد الانتظار. كقاضى الهجرة الذي كان المسؤول عن هذه القضية وجدها قابلة للتصديق لكنه رفض منحها اللجوء السياسي، مدعياً أن هذه مشكلة فردية”. قامت الممسواة الآن بحملة للمطالبة بالإفراج عن أداليسد أبانكوا، بواعادة النظر بطلب اللجوء السياسي الذي قدمته. وبعد أن صدر حكم لصالحها من محكمة الاستئناف فسي 19 تموز عام 1999 تم الإفراج عن أداليسد وتمت الموافقة على طلب اللجوء السياسي الذي قدمته في 13 آب عام 1999.

# TRAFFICKING AND SEX TOURISM



Maricris Sioson

**C**ommercial sexual exploitation is a multi-billion-dollar industry that ruthlessly destroys lives with impunity. Equality Now continues to campaign against trafficking and sex tourism, calling for the investigation and prosecution of those who profit from the sexual exploitation of women and girls around the world.

### THE DEATH OF MARICRIS SIOSON

In December 1993, Equality Now issued a Women's Action concerning the death of Maricris Sioson, a 22-year-old Filipina dancer who went to work in Japan and several months later died there on 14 September 1991. When her body was returned to the Philippines for burial, signs of beatings and stab wounds indicated that Maricris Sioson had been killed, although Japanese doctors had listed hepatitis as the cause of her death. An autopsy confirmed that Maricris died of traumatic head injuries and documented two stab wounds, one in the thigh indicating that a double-edged blade had been twisted upward, downward and diagonally in the flesh, and one in the genital area indicating that a blade had been inserted vertically. Equality Now continues to call for an investigation into the death of Maricris Sioson and the prosecution of those responsible.

### BIG APPLE ORIENTAL TOURS: A CALL TO PROSECUTE

Equality Now continues its campaign against sex tourism, calling for the prosecution of Big Apple Oriental Tours, a sex tourism agency based in New York organizing sex tours for men to the Philippines and Thailand. After the Philippines Government banned Norman Barabash, the owner of Big Apple Oriental Tours, from entering the country in 1997, he began referring sex tourists interested in going to the Philippines to Philippine Adventure Tours, a sex tourism agency run by Allan Gaynor, based in Ventura County, California. In 1998, together with the Los Angeles-based organization Captive Daughters and the Los Angeles chapter of the Philippines women's organization GABRIELA, Equality Now sponsored two demonstrations at the Los Angeles airport, on April 18 and on November 4, to



protest the departure of sex tours organized by Philippine Adventure Tours.

Since 1996, Equality Now has been calling on Richard Brown, the District Attorney of Queens County, the county in New York in which Norman Barabash resides, to prosecute him under New York law, which prohibits the promotion of prostitution as a criminal offense. In 1999, in the face of continuing inaction by the authorities, Equality Now commissioned the prominent law firm Latham & Watkins to review the law and the evidence that had been provided to the District Attorney by Equality Now. Latham & Watkins concluded:

“It may be claimed that no harm is caused by a sex tour operator, such as Big Apple Oriental Tours, which encourages prostitution activities to occur outside the jurisdiction of the United States. The claim is, of course, untrue. . . . Failure to prosecute a company such as Big Apple Oriental Tours, which egregiously violates laws prohibiting the promotion of prostitution, would contravene the clear public policy mandate expressed by the New York State Legislature and numerous court decisions.” With regard to evidence, the law firm noted, “The fact that evidence has been obtained by two independent, non-law enforcement agencies and that Philippine authorities appear eager to end such practices further suggest the relative ease with which sufficient evidence could be obtained by law enforcement authorities to support a conviction.”

This memorandum of law was submitted to the District Attorney. As the year ended, Equality Now also secured support for its efforts from Representative Carolyn Maloney, a United States Member of Congress from New York whose district includes parts of Queens County and who serves as the co-chair of the Congressional Women’s Caucus.



In 1998 Equality Now co-sponsored several demonstrations at the Los Angeles airport to protest the departure of sex tours to the Philippines.

## SOMMAIRE

Egalité Maintenant continue à faire campagne contre la traite des femmes et le tourisme sexuel. Depuis décembre 1993, Egalité Maintenant demande une enquête sur la mort de Maricris Sioson, danseuse philippine de 22 ans qui est allée travailler au Japon en tant qu'artiste, et qui a été tuée quelques mois plus tard. Et depuis 1996, Egalité Maintenant demande l'engagement de poursuites judiciaires contre Norman Barabash, propriétaire de la compagnie Big Apple Oriental Tours, dans le quartier de Queens à New York, laquelle organise des voyages à but sexuel aux Philippines et en Thaïlande.

## RESUMEN

Igualdad Ya continua su campaña en contra del tráfico de mujeres y el turismo sexual. Igualdad Ya ha venido exigiendo desde Diciembre de 1993 que se investigue la muerte de Maricris Sioson, bailarina filipina de 22 años de edad que viajó a Japón a trabajar en teatros de variedades y murió asesinada poco después. Asimismo, Igualdad Ya está exigiendo desde 1996 el procesamiento de Norman Barabash, propietario de Big Apple Oriental Tours, empresa de Queens, Nueva York, que organiza giras de turismo sexual a Filipinas y Tailandia.

## ملخص

استمرت المساواة الآن في حملتها التي نددت بالمتاجرة بالنساء وتنظيم الرحلات السياحية للتمتع بالجنس. ومنذ كانون الأول عام 1993 طالبت المساواة الآن بالتحقيق في مقتل ماريكريس سيوزون وهي راقصة فلبينية في الثانية والعشرين من العمر كانت قد ذهبت للعمل في مجال الترفيه في اليابان وقتلت بعد عدة شهور. ومنذ عام 1996 والمساواة الآن تطالب بمحاكمة نورمان باراباش مالك شركة بيك ابل اوريينتال تورز ومقرها نيويورك والتي تنظم رحلات سياحية للتمتع بالجنس إلى كل من الفلبين وتايلاند.

The United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, adopted in 1949, characterizes prostitution as “incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person.” Under the Convention, governments are obligated to punish any person who “exploits the prostitution of another person, even with the consent of that person.” The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women obligates governments to “take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.”

## GETTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS ON THE AGENDA

**S**ince March 1995, Equality Now has been working to bring human rights violations against women to the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Committee. The Human Rights Committee was established by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a treaty for the protection of human rights that has been signed and ratified by more than 130 countries. Under the Covenant, signatory governments are required to report on a regular basis to the Human Rights Committee on their compliance with the provisions of the Covenant. Many of these provisions encompass the human rights of women, including the fundamental right to equality under the law and equal protection of the law. Working with women's rights groups in countries up for review by the Committee, during the 1998 and 1999 sessions Equality Now raised concerns relating to violence against women, legally sanctioned discrimination, and reproductive rights in conjunction with the Committee's consideration of reports from Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Ecuador, Israel, Algeria, Tanzania, Armenia, Libya, Japan, Chile, Lesotho, Cambodia, Mexico, Poland, Cameroon, Morocco and the Republic of Korea. Equality Now is the only women's rights group that regularly participates in the work of the Human Rights Committee.

### FROM CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

**ON URUGUAY:** *The Committee is concerned about articles 89 and 90 of the Code which provide that the marriage to the accused of a victim of rape—even statutory rape—and of other criminal offences, extinguishes the criminal offence, to the benefit of a perpetrator who has subsequently married the victim. . . . 62ND SESSION, MARCH 1998*

**ON ECUADOR:** *The Committee expresses its concern about the very high number of suicides of young females, which appear in part to be related to the prohibition of abortion. In this*

**O**ne popular video series in Japan is entitled "Rapeman." A schoolteacher by day, Rapeman is a character who avenges spurned men by raping the women who rejected them. Violent rape imagery is also prevalent in adult comics, known as manga, which have been described by members of the Tokyo Rape Crisis Centre as "virtually manuals for rape." Equality Now submits that the prevalence of severely violent and misogynist pornography in Japan constitutes "incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence" as contemplated by Article 20 of the Covenant, which would clearly require the suppression of this speech if it were characterized by national, racial or religious hatred.

*from Equality Now submission to the Human Rights Committee on Japan, October 1998*

regard, the Committee regrets the State party's failure to address the resulting problems faced by adolescent girls, in particular rape victims, who suffer the consequences of such acts for the rest of their lives. **63RD SESSION, JULY 1998**

**ON ISRAEL:** The Committee regrets that women brought to Israel for purposes of prostitution, many of whom are brought as a result of false pretenses or coercion, are not protected as victims of trafficking but are likely to bear the penalties of their illegal presence in Israel by deportation. The Committee recommends that serious efforts be made to seek out and punish the traffickers, to institute rehabilitation programmes for the victims and to ensure that they are able to pursue legal remedies against the perpetrators. **63RD SESSION, JULY 1998**

**ON JAPAN:** In light of information given by the State party on planned new legislation against child prostitution and child pornography, the Committee is concerned that such measures may not protect children under the age of 18 when the age limit for sexual consent is as low as thirteen. . . . The Committee is also troubled that the courts in Japan seem to consider domestic violence, including forced sexual intercourse, as a normal incidence in married life. **64TH SESSION, OCTOBER 1998**

**ON CHILE:** The Committee is concerned that there are a large number of instances of sexual harassment in the workplace. Therefore the Committee recommends that a law be enacted making sexual harassment in the workplace an offence punishable by law. **65TH SESSION, MARCH 1999**

**ON MEXICO:** The Committee is concerned by information to the effect that Mexican women seeking employment in foreign enterprises in the frontier areas of Mexico ("maquiladoras") are subjected to pregnancy tests and required to respond to intrusive personal questioning, and that some women employees have been administered anti-pregnancy drugs. It is also concerned that those allegations have not been seriously investigated. Measures should be taken to investigate all such allegations with a view to ensuring that women whose rights to equality and to privacy have been violated in this way have access to remedies and to preventing such violations from recurring. **66TH SESSION, JULY 1999**

**ON POLAND:** The Committee is concerned about the effects of the Polish pension system which results in lower pensions for women by preserving different retirement ages for men (65) and women (60); since the amount of the pensions is directly linked to the number of years at work, this leads to lower pensions for women. Discrimination between retirement ages for men and women should be eliminated. **66TH SESSION, JULY 1999**

**ON CAMEROON:** The Committee is concerned at the fact that there is no specific law to prohibit female genital mutilation and that this practice continues in certain areas of Cameroonian territory in violation of article 7 of the Covenant. The State party should take all measures, including legislation, to combat and eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation. **67TH SESSION, OCTOBER 1999**

**ON MOROCCO:** The State party is urged to intensify its efforts to overcome illiteracy, lack of education and all forms of discrimination against women, to implement fully the guarantee of equality contained in the Covenant and to ensure the equal enjoyment by women of all rights and freedoms. **67TH SESSION, OCTOBER 1999**

## SOMMAIRE

Depuis mars 1995, Egalité Maintenant travaille à attirer l'attention du Comité des droits de l'homme des Nations unies, constitué par le Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques, sur les violations des droits humains de la femme. En travaillant avec des associations pour les droits de la femme dans les pays que le Comité va étudier, Egalité Maintenant a soulevé pendant des séances qui ont eu lieu en 1998 et 1999, des questions relatives à la violence contre la femme, à la discrimination autorisée par la loi, et aux droits de reproduction. Egalité Maintenant est la seule association pour les droits de la femme qui participe régulièrement au travail du Comité des droits de l'homme.

## RESUMEN

Igualdad Ya viene trabajando desde Marzo de 1995 por llevar las violaciones de los derechos humanos de la mujer ante el Comité de Derechos Humanos establecido en Naciones Unidas en virtud del Pacto Internacional de Derechos Civiles y Políticos. Durante las sesiones de 1998 y 1999 Igualdad Ya, en conjunto con organizaciones de derechos de la mujer de los países que el Comité investiga año a año, logró plantear temas relativos a la violencia contra la mujer, la discriminación autorizada por la ley y los derechos reproductivos. Igualdad Ya es la única organización de derechos de la mujer que trabaja habitualmente con el Comité de Derechos Humanos.

## ملخص

منذ آذار عام 1995 عملت المساواة الآن على لفت انتباه لجنة الأمم المتحدة لحقوق الإنسان إلى انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان للمرأة وقد تأسست هذه اللجنة بموجب العهد الدولي للحقوق المدنية والسياسية. قامت المساواة الآن بنشر الوعي حول العنف ضد النساء من خلال عملها مع مجموعات حقوق الإنسان للمرأة في الدول التي تعمل بها اللجنة. وأثناء دورات اللجنة عامي 1998، 1999 أشارت المساواة الآن الاهتمام بالقضايا المتعلقة بالعنف ضد المرأة، التمييز في مجال قوانين العقوبات والحقوق الإنجابية. المساواة الآن هي المنظمة الوحيدة المعنية بحقوق المرأة التي تشارك بشكل منتظم في أعمال لجنة حقوق الإنسان.

# A VOICE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



*Demba Diawara, an imam from Senegal: "Men need to go learn about the danger this practice presents to the health of women, and about human rights to be more open minded. They have to understand that stopping this practice will improve the health of their women and girl children, and is important to their survival." (Man Power, Volume 3, Issue 3, September 1999)*

**A**waken is a quarterly publication started in 1997 by Equality Now to support organizations and individual activists working to stop female genital mutilation (FGM). Awaken is a forum for information and discussion to promote a better understanding and a more effective strategy for the eradication of FGM. In each issue of Awaken there is a feature piece highlighting activism, news from around the world relating to FGM and a listing of resources that includes information on organizations, conferences, and publications relating to the issue, as well as funders that might be potential sources of support. Each issue also includes a Man Power column to promote dialogue among men on the eradication of FGM. Awaken is published in English, Arabic and French to promote its accessibility to grassroots groups and individuals in communities where FGM is practiced, and it is distributed free of charge to these groups and individuals. The following are some excerpts from issues of Awaken published in 1998 and 1999:

*I feel strongly about this practice because I had a form of FGM in 1918 or 1919 in Missouri (USA) when I was four or five years old. . . . Only now am I getting psychiatric help to relieve the terrible rage I have harbored all these years. . . . I still wonder how many girls in this country have had some forms of FGM—girls who were not in immigrant families. I support your work. . . .* **GRACE E. HALPERIN, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2, JUNE 1998**

*Until I came to the United States I never knew that the horrible procedure of Female Genital Mutilation took place anywhere else in the world other than Togo. It was extremely embarrassing for me to talk to anyone about this cultural practice of ours. . . . If I had had the courage to tell the Immigration and Naturalization Service when I arrived about FGM, I might not have been in prison. . . . However, sometimes things happen for good reasons. My incarceration seems to have caused the change of many laws not only in America but also in other parts of the world and I am particularly grateful about the change of law in my country Togo. I was thrilled to read in the last issue of Equality Now's Awaken that the government has banned FGM in Togo and I am happy that something is being done to eradicate this terror. My congratulations to everyone who works towards the eradication of FGM and addresses other human rights violations.*

**FAUZIYA M. KASSINDJA, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3, SEPTEMBER 1998**

*The current government came to power in 1986, with a strong commitment to women's causes and human rights. At that time, I launched a full campaign against FGM in my*

district. . . . In reaction to our efforts, the District Council even passed a local law in 1988 requiring every local woman to undergo FGM. They threatened to forcefully cut those women who refused. . . . While women around me were literally being seized by local authorities to be cut, I managed to escape under police protection, and immediately contacted the Cabinet Minister for Women. Together we boarded a helicopter and flew to my district to rescue the local women. In some cases we found the women bound, in preparation for the FGM procedure and we freed them. In more remote areas, the women had already been cut before we arrived. The Minister convened a meeting of the District Council. Under pressure from her, the Council grudgingly agreed to rescind the new law. . . .

**JANE FRANCES KUKA, UGANDAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS,  
SEPTEMBER FEATURE, VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3, SEPTEMBER 1998**

As a young African boy growing up, I heard stories about the practice of FGM in countries like Senegal, Togo, Ghana, and Somalia, just to mention a few. It never crossed my mind that female excision was something horrible. . . . Now that I am matured and informed with your organization's help through TV interview and testimonies from the victims, I have realized that FGM and the reasons behind it have nothing in common with male circumcision. . . . I wonder how the same countries today would react if there were a culture in which a man's penis was cut off as a customary tradition. . . . In Paris, France, an FGM victim called Mariatou reported her ordeal to the authorities now that she is a grown woman. . . . Yesterday, on February 17, 1999, Hawa Greou [the circumciser] was sentenced to 8 years in prison. . . . Way to go France! This sends a clear message that the criminals will be punished... The war is not won, but the battle continues. Keep fighting.

**MOHAMED IBRAHIM, MAN POWER, VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1, MARCH 1999**

Kenya: Ms. Rose Cionjira Kaumbuthu, a 14 year old girl, was pronounced dead after undergoing Female Genital Mutilation in Meru, North District. . . . Rose's circumcision was secretly organized by her grandmother in her grandmother's residence, in Kanikaruui village. Dr. Thiakumu Mwirabwa, who was the doctor in charge on the night she was brought to the hospital, was reported as saying that Rose bled for more than 12 hours before she was brought to the hospital.

**NEWS, VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4,  
DECEMBER 1999**

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## SOMMAIRE

L'Eveil est une publication trimestrielle lancée en 1997 par Egalité Maintenant pour soutenir les organisations et les activistes individuels qui travaillent à mettre fin à la mutilation génitale féminine (MGF). L'Eveil est un forum pour les informations et la discussion, qui encourage une meilleure compréhension de la MGF, et une stratégie plus efficace pour y mettre fin. Chaque numéro de L'Eveil comprend un article de fond qui met en lumière quelque aspect d'activisme, des nouvelles sur la MGF de partout dans le monde, une liste de ressources, et une rubrique qui encourage un dialogue entre les hommes sur le sujet de la suppression de la MGF. On a fourni ici quelques extraits de L'Eveil, qui est publié en anglais, arabe, et français.

## RESUMEN

Awaken es una publicación trimestral creada en 1997 por Igualdad Ya para apoyar a instituciones y personas que luchan por erradicar la mutilación genital femenina. Awaken es una instancia de información y debate que trabaja por denunciar esta práctica y mejorar las estrategias para suprimirla. Cada número trae un artículo destacado sobre iniciativas contra la mutilación genital femenina, un recuento de noticias de todo el mundo en torno al tema, un listado de personas y materiales de apoyo y una columna orientada a impulsar el diálogo masculino sobre la necesidad de poner fin a la mutilación genital femenina. En esta página se reproducen fragmentos de Awaken, revista que se publica en inglés, árabe y francés.

## ملخص

بدأت المسساواة الآن في عالم 1997 بإصدار نشرة اليقظة - وهي نشرة فصلية - لدعم المنظمات والأفراد الناشطين في مجال القضاء على ممارسة تشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للمرأة. تعتبر اليقظة منتدى للبحث ومصدر للمعلومات من أجل تعميم فهم أفضل وبناء إستراتيجيات فعالة للقضاء على هذه الممارسة، ويتضمن كل عدد من أعداد النشرة مقال رئيسي يعرض تجربة إحدى المنظمات في الكفاح ضد الممارسة وأخبار حملة القضاء على الممارسة حول العالم وقائمة تحوي دراسات ومطبوعات متعلقة بالممارسة، بالإضافة إلى مقال مخصص لتنمية الحوار بين الرجال للقضاء على هذه الممارسة. وتحوي هذه الصفحة مقتطفات من المواضيع التي وردت في النشرة والتي تصدر باللغة العربية والإنجليزية والفرنسية.

# INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## SOMMAIRE

Egalité Maintenant continue à participer au processus de l'élaboration des normes juridiques internationales relatives aux droits humains de la femme, en se concentrant en particulier sur les définitions du viol et de la traite sexuelle. En juillet 1999, Egalité Maintenant a écrit aux délégations gouvernementales aux Nations unies, en les exhortant à adopter une définition conceptuelle du viol pour la Cour d'assises internationale. En 1999, Egalité Maintenant a convoqué une coalition d'organisations pour les droits de la femme aux Etats-Unis pour exhorter le Congrès américain à adopter un sens large du terme "traite sexuelle" dans la législation américaine, ce qui était toujours en instance à la fin de 1999.

## RESUMEN

Igualdad Ya continúa participando en la elaboración de una norma jurídica internacional sobre los derechos humanos de la mujer, en especial la definición de los delitos de violación y tráfico sexual. En Julio de 1999 Igualdad Ya dirigió una nota conjunta a los representantes de los estados del mundo ante Naciones Unidas, instándolos a ratificar una definición conceptual del delito de violación para ser adoptado por la Corte Penal Internacional. En 1999 Igualdad Ya convocó a una coalición de organizaciones estadounidenses de derechos de la mujer para exigir al Congreso incorporar una definición amplia del delito de tráfico sexual al derecho nacional, materia que al cierre de 1999 todavía se encontraba pendiente.

## ملخص

واصلت المساواة الآن مشاركتها في عملية تسليط الضوء على المعايير القانونية الدولية المتعلقة بحقوق الإنسان للنساء مع التركيز على وجه الخصوص على تعريف الاغتصاب، والتجارة الجنسية. في تموز عام 1999 قامت المساواة الآن بتشكيل تحالف مع بعض منظمات حقوق الإنسان في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية من أجل مطالبة الكونجرس الأمريكي بتبني تعريف أشمل للمتاجرة بالجنس في التشريعات الأمريكية والتي ما زالت قيد الانتظار حتى نهاية عام 1999.

**E**quality Now continues to participate in the process of elaborating international legal standards relating to the human rights of women, focusing in particular on the definition of rape and the definition of sex trafficking.

## THE DEFINITION OF RAPE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

*The atrocities that occurred in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda make it painfully clear that the universe of sexual violence is unimaginable in scope. In drafting definitions that must endure over time, the International Criminal Court Preparatory Commission will not be able to capture and precisely define all forms of violent perversity that should be included unless it adopts a conceptual approach, as the ad hoc tribunals have done. As the Akayesu decision of the Rwanda tribunal noted, "rape is a form of aggression and the central elements of the crime of rape cannot be captured in a mechanical description of objects and body parts." Like torture, rape can take various forms, and the resulting intimidation, degradation, humiliation, discrimination, punishment, control and destruction are more defining characteristics than the particular form of the violation.*

**From Equality Now letter to UN government delegations, July 1999**

## THE DEFINITION OF TRAFFICKING IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

*We are writing to urge you to amend the International Trafficking of Women and Children Victim Protection Act of 1999 to ensure that all women and girls who are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation can benefit from its provisions. Traffickers procure their victims in many ways, and the sexual exploitation of women and girls takes many forms. Some women and girls are abducted; some are deceived by offers of legitimate work in another country; some are sold by their own poverty-stricken parents who, barely able to feed their children, are lured by traffickers who profit from their desperation. These young women and girls, anxious to contribute to their families and help them seek a better life, sometimes acquiesce. Regardless of how they are dragged into the multi-billion dollar industry of sexual exploitation, these women and girls suffer unspeakable human rights violations as commodities of the trade in human beings.*

**Jessica Neuwirth, President of Equality Now**

**Gloria Feldt, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America**

**Adrienne Germain, President of the International Women's Health Coalition**

**Patricia Ireland, President of the National Organization for Women (NOW)**

**Mim Kelber, Co-Founder of the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)**

**Frances Kissling, President of Catholics for a Free Choice**

**Dorchen Leidholdt, Co-Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women**

**Robin Morgan, Founder of the Sisterhood is Global Institute**

**Julia Scott, President of the National Black Women's Health Project**

**Eleanor Smeal, President of The Feminist Majority**

**Gloria Steinem, Founder of Ms. Magazine**

**Leslie R. Wolfe, President of the Women's Policy Institute**

*(From Equality Now coalition letter to United States Senator Paul Wellstone, April 1999)*

# THE ACTIVISTS OF EQUALITY NOW



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1. Ken Franzblau, *Trafficking Campaign Director.*
2. Mandy Sullivan addressing a memorial service for Kim Hak Soon, the first Korean "comfort woman" to speak publicly and identify herself openly. January 1998.
3. Faiza Jama Mohamed in Arusha, Tanzania for the delivery of the Akayesu judgment by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, September 1998.
4. Joe Rydziewski, *Manager of Information Systems.*
5. Meryl Strep (center) at Equality Now reception honoring Navanethem Pillay (left) and Rose Styron (right) for a lifelong commitment to human rights. May 1999.
6. Marie Vidal, *Office Manager.*

# FRIENDS OF EQUALITY NOW

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 Liz Calvin  
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 Roxanna Carrillo  
 Catholics for a Free Choice  
 Anita Cavallino  
 Center for Strategic Initiatives of Women  
 Alexandra Chasin



Ellen Chesler  
 Coalition Against Trafficking in Women  
 Dory Coffee  
 Pamela Collett  
 Jane Connors  
 The Cosmopolitan Club  
 Leslie Couvillion  
 Larry Cox  
 Barbara Crossette  
 Sheila Dauer  
 Davis, Polk & Wardwell  
 Valerie DeFillipo  
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 Home Box Office  
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 International Women's Health Coalition  
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 Rose Odera  
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 Victoria Otumfor  
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 Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
 Katha Pollitt  
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 Rosemary Sullivan  
 Ann Syauta  
 Margery Tabankin  
 Tsinu Tesfaye  
 Kristen Timothy  
 Rachel Kahn Troster  
 Susan Twombly  
 Aruna Uprety  
 Urgent Action Fund  
 Allert Van Den Ham  
 Paula Van Gelder  
 Melanne Verveer  
 Jenny Warburg  
 Nancy Weisman  
 Jess Wharton  
 Joss Whedon  
 White & Case  
 Vernon Williams  
 Marie Wilson  
 June Zeitlin

See inside back cover for photo captions.



# FINANCIAL REPORT 1998–1999

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	As of 12/31 <b>1999</b>	As of 12/31 <b>1998</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$252,018	\$139,148
Investments	4,703	—
Grants receivable	144,000	147,000
Prepaid expenses	5,661	7,988
Loan receivable	7,500	—
Property and equipment, net	40,545	25,772
Other assets	9,246	6,481
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$463,673</b>	<b>\$326,389</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 15,280	\$ 9,558
Refundable advances	5,601	13,101
Deferred rent	6,077	6,469
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>26,958</b>	<b>29,128</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	292,715	172,261
Temporarily restricted	144,000	125,000
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>436,715</b>	<b>297,261</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$463,673</b>	<b>\$326,389</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
Contributions and grants		
Foundations	\$564,280	\$292,860
Individual donors	79,501	74,013
Corporations	27,629	26,825
Contract revenue	7,500	31,899
Special events, net	23,548	—
Donated goods and services	297,286	77,940
Investment income	4,632	4,693
Other income	2,610	115
<b>Public support and revenue before net assets released from restrictions</b>	<b>1,006,986</b>	<b>508,345</b>
<b>Net assets released from restrictions</b>	<b>81,000</b>	<b>117,300</b>
<b>Total public support and revenue</b>	<b>1,087,986</b>	<b>625,645</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services		
Women's Action Network	497,024	284,571
FGM Program	127,705	118,472
UN Human Rights Committee	96,620	103,193
Africa office	67,650	—
<b>Total program expenses</b>	<b>788,999</b>	<b>506,236</b>
Supporting services		
Management and general	117,998	90,773
Fundraising	60,535	47,605
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>967,532</b>	<b>644,614</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>120,454</b>	<b>(18,969)</b>
<b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Contributions	100,000	200,000
Net assets released from restrictions	(81,000)	(117,300)
<b>Increase in temporarily restricted net assets</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>82,700</b>
<b>Increase in net assets</b>	<b>139,454</b>	<b>63,731</b>
<b>Net assets: January 1</b>	<b>297,261</b>	<b>233,530</b>
<b>Net assets: December 31</b>	<b>\$436,715</b>	<b>\$297,261</b>

Copies of the complete, audited reports may be obtained from Equality Now or from the State of New York, Department of Law, Office of Charities Registration, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12223.



## FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE SUPPORT 1998–1999

*Equality Now wishes to acknowledge and thank the following foundations and corporations for their support:*

- The Bydale Foundation
- The Dreitzer Foundation
- The European Human Rights Foundation
- The Ford Foundation
- The International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD)
- The Jana Foundation
- The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- The Mattel Foundation
- The Moriah Fund
- The Ms. Foundation
- NOVIB
- The Open Society Institute
- The Pond Foundation
- The Ruben & Elisabeth Rausing Trust
- The Reebok Human Rights Foundation
- The Shaler Adams Foundation
- The Streisand Foundation
- The Ruth Turner Fund
- The V-Day Fund
- Working Assets

**Photos**, pages 22 and 23: **1.** Liz Young, Advisory Council. **2.** Maurine Rothschild (left) and Dory Coffee (right) at Equality Now Art Benefit, June 1998. **3.** Barbara Crossette, *New York Times*. **4.** Board member Taina Bien-Aimé with Meryl Streep, May 1999. **5.** Rana Hussein, *Jordan Times*. **6.** Interns Amanda Norejko (far left), Jaime Dowell (middle left) and Eve McCabe (far right) with Gloria Steinem (middle right), Advisory Council. **7.** Africa Director Faiza Jama Mohamed at a meeting of human rights organizations convened by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), October 1998. **8.** Nancy Weisman. **9.** Gloria Neuwirth. **10.** Alan Seget. **11.** Jacqui Hunt, Board of Directors. **12.** Navanethem Pillay, Honorary Chair. **13.** Robin Morgan. **14.** Hanny Megally, Advisory Council. **15.** Rana Badri, *Awaken* Editor. **16.** Deborah Ashford, Eleanor Smeal, Kate Michelman, Frances Kissling, Aruna Uprety (left to right), Equality Now's delegation to the Nepali Embassy, May 1998. **17.** Nepali activists Aruna Uprety (left) and Shanta Thapalia (right), visiting Equality Now's office in New York, June 1999. **18.** Jessica Neuwirth, Board President, visiting the women lawyers of FIDA Uganda, May 1998.